

The Important Stuff

Although the household goods weight allowance is limited, it is important to pack some personal possessions. Children adjust with greater ease to a new environment when they are surrounded by familiar belongings such as favorite toys or special keepsakes. Records, tapes, magazines, videos and books become very important where there is no English language radio or television. Access to a public library may not be feasible, so consider including an encyclopedia, atlas, dictionary and other reference material in your shipment.

Clothing

Pack clothes that are suitable to the new climate. The Navy Exchange will have some clothing, but seldom the selection you are used to, and items may be out of stock for months at a time. If someone in your family has an odd size problem, particularly in shoes, be sure you are well supplied before you leave. Try to arrange with a friend or relative for shipments of hard-to-find items as needed. Also take along Wards, Penneys, Spiegel or other mail order catalogs. When you order, allow plenty of time for shipping.

THE PET PICTURE



Taking the family dog or cat with you can be a great comfort. After all, pets are members of the family, and children in particular will find their presence comforting. On the other hand, bringing a pet from the United States into a foreign country may range from difficult to annoying to downright impossible. In some cases it verges on cruelty to the animal.

Before making any decision, obtain correct information about the regulations governing shipment of animals into your host nation. Once again, your new command will have the accurate, up-to-date information. Some countries have eradicated rabies and maintain severe restrictions on animal importation. Your pet may be put into quarantine at a facility not necessarily near you for a period ranging from two weeks to one year. Check the quarantine regulations of your host nation **BEFORE** you make any decision. Generally you must pay the cost of keeping the animal in quarantine as well as the initial shipping expenses. In almost every case, a veterinarian's certification is required to assure that the pet has had the proper shots within three months prior to entry. Also, a health certificate not more than ten days old will be required for entry. If you do decide to take your pet overseas, please remember

that the transportation costs are much cheaper when the animal travels on the same plane as you rather than following at a later date.

However, housing conditions at your new duty station may be such that keeping a pet with you may be inconvenient or even impossible. For example, if you and your family end up spending several months living in temporary housing or even the Navy Lodge, pets may not be allowed. Besides, you, your spouse, the children and the large German Shepherd may be more than a little uncomfortable in the small apartment!



High Value Items

To prevent loss or theft, consider leaving expensive jewelry that is seldom used, irreplaceable or inherited or any other high value and/or antique items either in a safety-deposit box or with your family.



While ownership of firearms is generally easy in the United States, this is not the case in most other countries. Before you ship your firearms, make certain you are authorized to possess such items in the new host country. Whether you live on-base or off-base your right to have a firearm depends on the host country's laws. Also keep in mind that in a politically unstable area, weapons of any kind are the most prized targets of thieves, and you may be inviting trouble. Even in regions where you can own sporting arms, you may find the hunting licenses, permits and guides (often required) prohibitively expensive.



register your weapon upon arrival.

Many overseas bases have sport clubs where firearms and equipment can be rented. Check this information with your new command to find out how to register your weapon upon arrival.

OVERSEASMANSHIP INFORMATION BROCHURE

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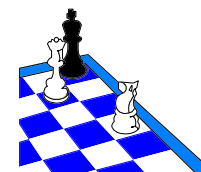
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OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS

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OVERSEASMANSHIP

Personal Possessions and The Family Pet



Contact your local

Personal Property Office

for more information and advice on taking
furniture and/or pets overseas.

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